

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed May 22, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Also, filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 5, 2001; February 12, 2004; June 24, 2005; August 15, 2005; and December 17, 2007.

Claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 10, 73, 82, 145, 152, 159 and 166 are independent. Claims 1, 10, 73, 82, 145, 152, 159 and 166 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Official Action reject claims 1-18, 73-90, 145, 147-152, 154-159, 161-166, 168-174, 177 and 178 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, asserting, with respect to claims 1, 73, 145 and 159, that "[t]he specification does not teach where the first unit and second unit are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters" and that "Examiner is unclear as to how the first unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters when the first unit comprises the level shifter; and how the second unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters when the second unit comprises the level shifter," and, with respect to claims 10, 82, 152 and 166, that "[t]he specification does not teach where the first to x-th units are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters" and that "Examiner is unclear as to how the first to [x-th] units stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters when the first to x-th units comprise the level shifters" (pages 2-4, Paper No. 20090520).

In response, independent claims 1, 73, 145 and 159 have been amended to recite “a first current source for controlling supply of current to the plurality of first level shifters; and a second current source for controlling supply of current to the plurality of second level shifters.” Claims 1 and 145 further recite “wherein the first current source is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters while the plurality of second stages of the shift register output the pulses, and wherein the second current source is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters while the plurality of first stages of the shift register output the pulses.” Claims 73 and 159 further recite “wherein the first current source is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters while the plurality of second stages of the decoder output the pulses, and wherein the second current source is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters while the plurality of first stages of the decoder output the pulses.”

Also, independent claims 10, 82, 152 and 166 have been amended to recite “a current source for controlling supply of current to the plurality of level shifters.” Claims 10 and 152 further recite “wherein the current source in one unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters while the plurality of stages of the shift register in the other units output the pulses.” Claims 82 and 166 further recite “wherein the current source in one unit is configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters while the plurality of stages of the decoder in the other units output the pulses.”

These features are supported in the present specification, for example, by page 5, lines 5-15. The Applicant respectfully submits that the specification teaches where the first unit and second unit are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters; that it is clear as to how the first unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of first level shifters when the first unit comprises the level shifter; that it is clear how the second unit stops supply of currents to the plurality of second level shifters when the second unit comprises the level shifter; that the specification teaches where

the first to x-th units are configured to stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters; and that it is clear as to how the first to x-th units stop supply of currents to the plurality of level shifters when the first to x-th units comprise the level shifters.

Therefore, amended claims 1, 10, 73, 82, 145, 152, 159 and 166, when read in light of the specification, are adequately described and supported in the specification; and the amended claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and are definite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action objects to the claims asserting that “[t]he use of parentheses in the claims are improper, since the parentheses are used only for reference characters, see MPEP 608.01(m)” (page 4, Paper No. 20090520). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertions in the Official Action. Contrary to the assertion in the Official Action, MPEP § 608.01(m) does not state that “parentheses are used only for reference characters.” Rather, MPEP § 608.01(m) merely states that “reference characters ... should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims.” In the present application, the use of parentheses in claims 10, 82, 152 and 166, i.e. “first to x-th (x: natural number, $x \geq 2$) units,” does not introduce any confusion into the claims and is believed to be clear. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are in order and respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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